GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:39
ANSWERED ON:21.07.2003
GENETICALLY MODIFIED MUSTARD
BHAWANA GAWALI (PATIL);HARIBHAU MAHALE

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have allowed Genetically Modified (GM) mustard to hit the Indian market;

(b) if so, whether Agricultural and Health Scientists have some reservations on GM mustard;

(c) if so, whether during lab test it has been found that GM Mustard could have adverse effects on male fertility; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV)

(a): No, Sir.

(b)to(d): The proposal for the commercial release of transgenic mustard developed by M/s. Proagro Seed CompanyPvt. Ltd. was considered by the Genetic Engineering Approval Committee which felt that "the trials conducted by ICAR are not conclusive and further trials should be conducted by ICAR and Deptt. of Biotechnology to address all agronomic and biosafety issues such as crossability, gene flow, resistance to herbicides, agronomic superiority, etc. The Committee also noted that mustard being an edible crop, further studies to establish health safety aspects need to be conducted".